

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4883–S5228

Measures Introduced: Twenty-four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 4438–4461, and S. Res. 667. **Page S4940**

Measures Passed:

Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 785, to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4921–35**

Moran/Tester Amendment No. 2594, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S4921–35**

Presidential Election in Belarus: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 658, calling for a free, fair, and transparent presidential election in Belarus taking place on August 9, 2020, including the unimpeded participation of all presidential candidates, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5228**

Cronan Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, August 6, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of John Peter Cronan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination ripen at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, August 6, 2020; and that if cloture is invoked, the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 1:30 p.m. **Page S5228**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S4939**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S4939**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S4939–40**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S4940–42**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4942–45**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4938–39**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4945–S5328**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:49 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5228.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported nominations of Hester Maria Peirce, of Ohio, and Caroline A. Crenshaw, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

FTC OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Trade Commission, after receiving testimony from Joseph J. Simons, Chairman, and Noah Joshua Phillips, Rohit Chopra, Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, and Christine S. Wilson, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Trade Commission.

CYBERSECURITY FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Federal and industry efforts to improve cybersecurity for the energy sector, focusing on how to improve collaboration on various cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection initiatives, after receiving testimony from Alexander Gates, Senior Advisor, Office of Policy for Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, Department of Energy; Joseph McClelland, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Security, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Steven C. Conner, Siemens Energy, Inc., Orlando, Florida; and Thomas O'Brien, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Southeastern, Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine an original bill entitled, “American Nuclear Infrastructure Act of 2020”, after receiving testimony from Amy C. Roma, Atlantic Council Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition, Washington, D.C.; William Paul Goranson, Uranium Producers of America, Lakewood, Colorado; and Armond Cohen, Clean Air Task Force, Boston, Massachusetts.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jennifer Yue Barber, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Keith W. Dayton, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus, and Alex Nelson Wong, of New Jersey, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, who was introduced by Senators Cotton and Romney, all of the Department of State, and Edward A. Burrier, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, who was introduced by former Representative Ed Royce, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Erik Paul Bethel, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Jonathan Pratt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Barbera Hale Thornhill, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Thomas Laszlo Vajda, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Union of Burma, and Kenneth R. Weinstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Japan, who was introduced by former Senator Joe Lieberman, all of the Department

of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CROSSFIRE HURRICANE INVESTIGATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, after receiving testimony from Sally Quillian Yates, former Deputy Attorney General of the United States, Atlanta, Georgia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3282, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans;

S. 2558, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain grants to assist nursing homes for veterans located on tribal lands;

S. 3643, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain postgraduate health care employees and health professions trainees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment via telemedicine;

S. 2950, to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4384, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan;

S. 711, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

S. 332, to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 805, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 514, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the

Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 629, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to review the processes and requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for health care and conducting consultations under the laws administered by the Secretary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2216, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, no-

tify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 3235, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program on posttraumatic growth, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, August 7, 2020.

Committee Meetings

THE DEVASTATING HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Devastating Health Impacts of Climate Change”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D659)

S. 4209, to amend title IX of the Social Security Act to improve emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. Signed on August 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–151)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jason Abend, of Virginia, to be In-

spector General, Bradley D. Hansell, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, Lucas N. Polakowski, of Virginia, and Louis W. Bremer, of Connecticut, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 9 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of William A. Douglass, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Melanie Harris Higgins, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi, Jeanne Marie Maloney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Michael A. McCarthy, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, Manisha Singh, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and James Broward Story, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10:30 a.m., VTC.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Homeland Security personnel deployments to recent protests, 10 a.m., SD–342.

House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled “Challenges to Safely Reopening K–12 Schools”, 2 p.m., Webex.